

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20, and 29-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 12, 15, and 18-19 have been amended to further define the invention. Claims 29 and 30 have been added. Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to address the rejections under 35 USC 112. Claims 21-28 have been cancelled as a result of a restriction requirement, however, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application pursuing these cancelled claims. The specification has been amended to address the Examiner's objections. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

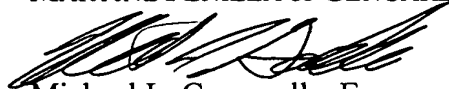
Each of the rejections of independent claims 1, 8, and 18, have been rendered moot in view of the amendments to the claims. In particular, none of the references disclose a flange having a flat bottom surface and a brush vertically disposed over a horizontal surface of a substrate. In addition none of the references disclose each flange having an opening extending therethrough, where the opening is connected to a vacuum source for removing fluid through the opening, the fluid being present between the flat bottom surface and the opposing surface of the substrate, as specified in claims 3, 10, and 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of each of the rejections under 35 USC 102 for at least the reasons stated above.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 6, 11, and 15 under 35 USC 103 is rendered moot in view of the amendments discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 774-6921. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P464). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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